

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method in a data processing system for conducting an inventory of the data processing system, the computer implemented method comprising:  
launching a basic input output system comprising an inventory process during a boot process for the data processing system, wherein the basic input output system initiates the inventory process ~~creates a hardware report of the data processing system,~~ wherein the inventory process collects a hardware inventory of components in the data processing system, wherein the data processing system is one in a plurality of data processing systems in a network; [[and]]  
responsive to launching the basic input output system during the boot process of the data processing system, identifying hardware components in the data processing system to form an inventory prior to the launching of an operating system; and  
~~sending the hardware report to a remote data processing system on the network~~  
sending a report comprising the inventory to a listener server on the network using a communications interface, prior to launching the operating system, wherein a format type of the report is type in a group consisting of extensible mark up language, hypertext markup language, text in a flat file, and simple network management protocol, and wherein the listener server collects and receives the report from each data processing system on the network, and wherein the listener server is a default listener server.
- 2.-4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
broadcasting a network message to a plurality of listener servers;  
requesting each listener server on the network to announce themselves;  
compiling responses from the each listener server to form a list;  
~~identifying listener servers on the network;~~  
presenting [[a]] the list of the each listener servers, wherein user input is received containing a selection of a select listener server from the plurality of listener servers, for reporting hardware changes in the data processing system; and  
saving the selection as a default listener server.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~broadcasting, compiling identifying,~~ presenting, and saving steps are initiated in response to an absence of a default listener server being present on the network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~hardware~~ the report is used to identify changes to the data processing system.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the listener server runs asset management software.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
waiting for an acknowledgment of the ~~hardware~~ report from the default listener server ~~remote data processing system~~;  
responsive to an absence of ~~[[an]]~~ the acknowledgment of the report, by the default server,  
selecting a second default listener server ~~remote data processing system~~; and  
sending the ~~hardware~~ report to the second default listener server ~~remote data processing system~~.

11.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 1 further comprising:  
responsive to an absence of the default listener server, identifying listener servers on the network;  
presenting a list of the listener servers for selection; and  
responsive to a selection of a listener server, saving the selection as the default listener server.

15.-43. (Canceled)